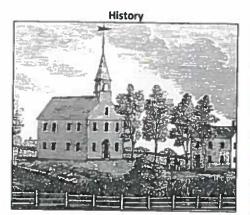
Booklet #2 November 17, 2014

CONDITIONS & TRENDS

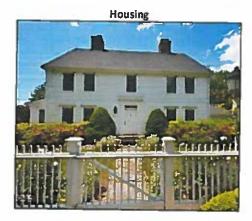
Overview

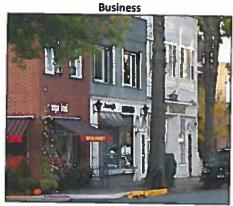
This booklet provides a general overview of conditions and trends affecting Darien. It has been prepared as part of the process of formulating the 2016 Plan of Conservation and Development.











"If we could first know where we are and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do and how to do it."

> Abraham Lincoln, **American President**

History of Darien

The landscape of the area we now know as Darien evolved over millions of years as a result of massive geologic forces. The advance and retreat of glaciers and fluctuations in climate and sea levels created a rocky coastline abutting a coastal sound. While there is no written record of their early habitation, Native Americans are believed to have lived in this area about 10,000 years ago.

European Settlement

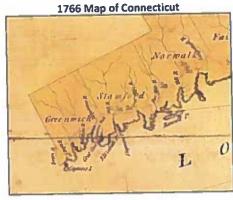
Europeans "discovered" this part of New England in 1614 when Dutch explorer Adriaen Block sailed into what we now call Long Island Sound. For the next 20 years or so, the Dutch and English competed for trade with Native Americans and to establish settlements. The British settled in Plymouth (Massachusetts) in 1620and the Dutch settled in New Amsterdam (New York) in 1624. Dutch and British trade with Native Americans eventually led to settlement of inland areas along the Connecticut River after 1634.

After the Pequot War of 1637, European settlement began to extend to other areas of what we now know as Connecticut. By 1642, Europeans had "purchased" land from Native Americans in what is now called Stamford and settlement began in this area. After 1674, the Dutch settlements to the west were consolidated under British rule (New Amsterdam was renamed to New York).

As population grew, more land was needed for subsistence farming and settlers moved outwards from Stamford. It was not uncommon at that time for settlers to establish small settlements were they could help and protect each other. From the coves along the shore, residents would travel to fields and other areas to tend crops or raise livestock or fish.

Life was difficult for early settlers in this area and it was made more challenging by the customs of the time where settlers would travel every week to a "meetinghouse" for religious services regardless of season or weather.





Formation Of A Parish

By about 1737, the population of this area had grown to the point where the residents felt they could support their own parish and no longer have to travel to Stamford for religious services. Permission was granted by the church and this new parish was called Middlesex. The first meetinghouse was later built at the corner of Brookside Road and the Boston Post Road.

As population grew and as concerns over safety diminished, settlers moved further out to create their own homesteads. Sawmills, blacksmith shops, and other communal amenities were established along brooks and streams to support the growing economy of this area.

Establishment Of A Town

Eventually, the population in the Middlesex parish grew to the point where people no longer wished to travel to Stamford for militia training or for town meetings. A petition was undertaken to create their own municipality and, in 1820, residents received permission from the General Assembly to establish a separate municipality. According to the 1820 Census, there were 1,126 residents.

Reportedly the name Darien came as the result of a compromise. A number of residents lobbied to have the new town named after them but there was no consensus. The name Darien is thought to come from a place in Panama which may have been suggested by a local resident.

At this time, the economy of this area was still dominated by subsistence agriculture although there were some emerging mills and early stores.





Arrival Of The Railroad

With the industrial revolution, Darien began to change. This change was not because of the establishment of new business and industry but with the introduction of steam trains and the establishment of a rail line from New York to New Haven (completed by 1849).

At first a great convenience for residents and an easy way to export agricultural produce to New York City, it soon had the effect of enticing immigration to Darien.

Residents of New York City were attracted to Darien because of its beautiful shoreline, rural character, and short travel distance from the city. While people had travelled here before by carriage or by boat, Darien became more popular when it was accessible by rail. After the Civil War, the town became one of the many resorts where New Yorkers built luxurious, grand summer homes. The population of Darien doubled between 1850 and 1900.

Spread Of The Automobile

After the turn of the century, the advent of the automobile and paved roadways supported the continued growth of Darien. The opening of the Merritt Parkway between Greenwich and Norwalk in 1938 is emblematic of this era. Between 1920 and 1940, Darien's population doubled again.

Following World War II, Darien experienced the same surge of growth that affected other communities in the area. A cultural trend toward suburban living and the flexibility offered by the automobile supported the development of Darien. Former farms were subdivided and developed and population doubled again between 1940 and 1960. Construction of Interstate 95 in the 1950s encouraged the suburban development of residential areas and Darien was no different.

By 1970, Darien had grown to be a community of over 20,000 people and the overall pattern of the community became established.

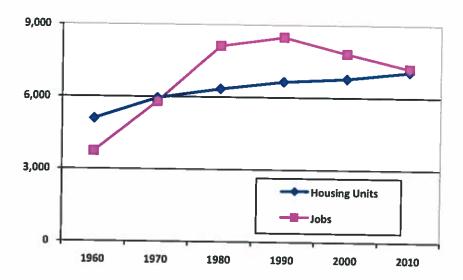
While the amount of land available for <u>new</u> development is limited, there continues to be considerable interest in Darien due to its location, character, amenities, and the quality of life it offers its residents. As a result, there is the potential for <u>redevelopment</u> in the community as existing buildings are updated, expanded, or replaced and as new uses replaces existing uses.

Regional Roles and Implications

Although perceived as a residential community, Darien actually serves two regional roles.

First and foremost, Darien is a residential suburb within the New York City metropolitan region. The community has over 20,000 residents and over 7,000 housing units. Most of the land area in Darien is zoned, used and planned for residential use.

Significantly though, Darien has also served as a regional employment center. As shown in the chart on this page, Darien has had more jobs located in the community than housing units since 1970. In other words, Darien has been a job "exporter" to the larger region due to the companies and organizations located here. Although the number of jobs in Darien has ebbed since the peak in 1990, there are still more jobs than housing units in the community.



Overall, Darien is a diverse and balanced community that provides employment opportunities and housing opportunities. These roles are supported by Darien's strategic location on the Metro North - New Haven rail line and Interstate 95.

Darien's Population

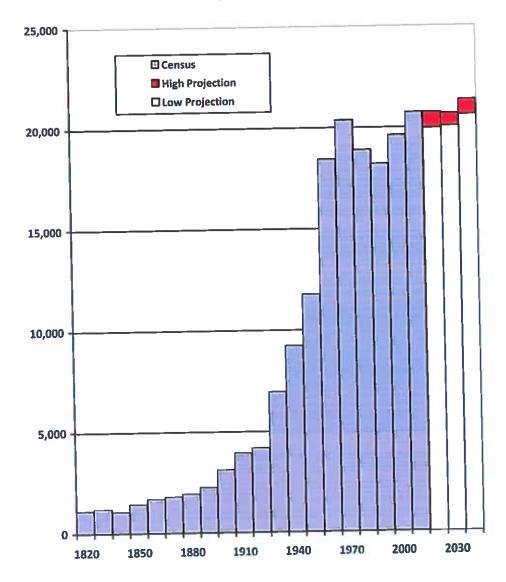
1820	1,1	126	
1830	1,	212	
1840	1,0	080	
1850	1,4	154	
1860	1.	705	
1870	1,	808	
1880		949	
1890		276	
1900		116	
1910		946	
1920	100	184	
1930	6,951		
1940	9,222		
1950		,767	
1960	18,437		
1970	20,366		
1980	18,892		
1990	18,196		
2000	19,607		
2010	20),732	
	10.052	20 227	
2020		20,727 20,670	
		21,341	
US Census		1820 to 201	

US Census data for 1820 to 2010.
Projections are in italics. Red projections are based on Planimetrics cohort survival model. Green projections based Connecticut State Data Center cohort survival model.

People Of Darien

According to the Census, Darien had a year 2010 population of 20,732 persons. This represents an increase of 1,125 persons from the 19,607 persons reported in the 2000 Census. The chart shows Darien population growth since the 1820 Census with a range of population projections to the year 2040.

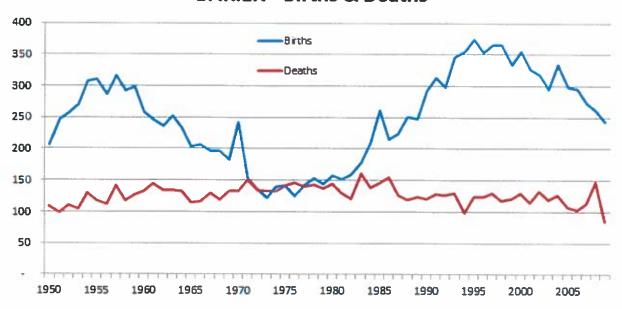
Darien's Population (1820 - 2040)



Dynamics of Population Change

As can be seen from the following chart, the number of births in Darien has fluctuated as a result of the "baby boom" (births between about 1945 and 1965), the "baby bust" (births between about 1965 and 1985), and the "baby boom echo" (births between about 1985 and 2005).

DARIEN - Births & Deaths



From 1950 to 1970, <u>net in-migration</u> was the major determinant of population change in Darien. From 1970 to 1990, <u>net out-migration</u> was the major determinant of population change since the number of births was lower during this period. Since 1990, growth has been a result of the "baby boom echo" outpacing <u>net out-migration</u>.

Components of Population Change

	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
Total Change	+6,670	+1,929	(1,474)	(696)	+1,411	+1,125
Change Due To Natural Increase	+1,622	+922	+107	+697	+2,182	+1,821
Births	2,790	2,211	1,497	2,058	3,399	3,000
Deaths	1,168	1,289	1,390	1,361	1,217	1,179
Change Due To Net Migration	+5,048	+1,007	(1,581)	(1,393)	(771)	(696)

US Census, Connecticut Health Department reports,

Age Composition

Over the last 40 years, the age composition of Darien has been changing due to the net effect of births, deaths, net migration, and natural aging.

As demonstrated by the orange bars in the following age pyramids, much of the change is attributable to people in the "baby boom" (people born between about 1945 and about 1965).

1970 = 20,366 residents
1970 Age Pyramid

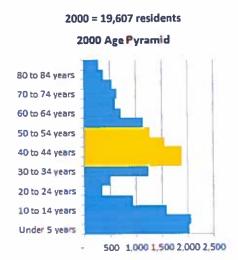
80 to 84 years
70 to 74 years
60 to 64 years
50 to 54 years
40 to 44 years
20 to 24 years
10 to 14 years
Under 5 years
- 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500

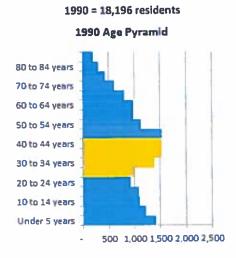
1980 = 18,892 residents

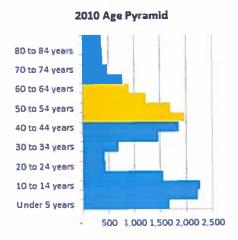
1980 Age Pyramid

80 to 84 years
70 to 74 years
60 to 64 years
50 to 54 years
40 to 44 years
20 to 24 years
10 to 14 years
Under 5 years

500 1,000 1,500 2,000 2,500



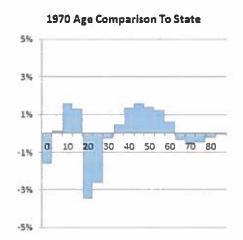




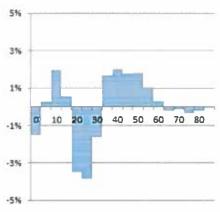
2010 = 20,732 residents

Compared to the State of Connecticut, Darien has generally had a greater share of the population in the younger age groups (0-19 years) and in young families (ages 35 – 55).

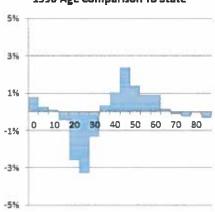
On the other hand, Darien has generally had a smaller share of the population in young adult age groups (ages 20-35) and older families and seniors (ages 55+).



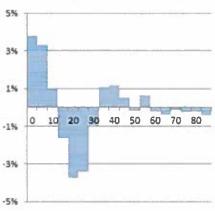




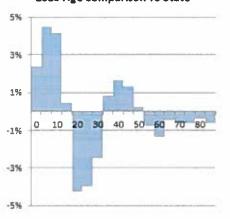
1990 Age Comparison To State



2000 Age Comparison To State

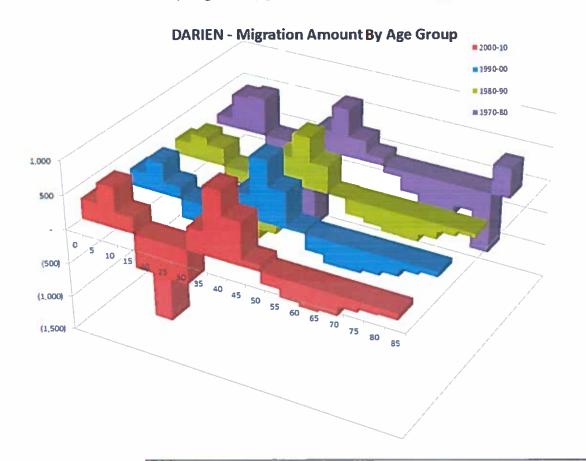


2010 Age Comparison To State



By comparing the number of people in one age group in the Census to the number of people 10 years younger in the prior Census (10 years earlier), the dynamics of migration in Darien can be evaluated.

Since at least 1970, as can be seen from the following chart, <u>net in-migration</u> <u>flow</u> to Darien has generally been family age adults (ages 30 to 50) and their children (ages 0 to 15). <u>Net out-migration flow</u> generally occurs with teenagers and young adults (ages 15 to 30) and mature families (ages 50+).



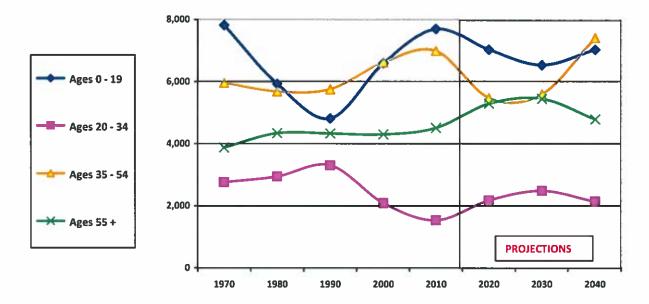
Darien has experienced <u>net in-migration</u> of younger families (ages 30 to 50) and their children (ages 0 to 15) due to its housing mix, location, and amenities.

Darien has experienced <u>net out-migration</u> of young adults (ages 15 to 30) and older residents (ages 50+).

The following chart looks at Darien's historic and projected population composition for the period from 1970 to 2040.

The most significant characteristic of Darien is the predominance of young families (ages 35 to 54) with children ages 0 to 19. This trend is projected to continue assuming past patterns remain.

<u>Darien is different than a lot of other communities in a significant way</u>. Many other communities are experiencing an increase in the number of residents age 55 and older in the future - reflecting the aging of the "baby boomers" (people born between about 1945 and 1965). Since Darien has had a pattern of some net out-migration in these age groups, the experience locally may be much more modest.



A changing age composition can also result in a changing demand for municipal and housing types. Of course, it must be remembered that these are projections and variations can occur, especially further into the future.

With the overall migration pattern in Darien, the school enrollment ratio (public school enrollment as a percent of total population) is among the highest in the Connecticut. Darien's enrollment ratio is almost 50 percent high than the State average of 16 percent.

Top 20 Towns	2010 Population US CENSUS	2009 Enrollment CT-DOE	Enroll- ment Ratio	
1. Weston	10,179	2,552	25%	
2. Wilton	18,062	4,341	24%	
3. Darien	20,732	4,781	23%	
4. Ridgefield	24,638	5,441	22%	
5. New Fairfield	13,881	3,029	22%	
6. Westport	26,391	5,716	22%	
7. Tolland	15,052	3,152	21%	
8. Simsbury	23,511	4,860	21%	
9. New Canaan	19,738	4,077	21%	
10. Granby	11,282	2,275	20%	
11. Madison	18,269	3,664	20%	
12. Monroe	19,479	3,894	20%	
13. Colchester	16,068	3,204	20%	
14. Newtown	27,560	5,490	20%	
15. Avon	18,098	3,585	20%	
16. Lebanon	7,308	1,447	20%	
17. Glastonbury	34,427	6,816	20%	
18. Trumbull	36,018	7,014	19%	
19. South Windsor	25,709	4,650	18%	
20. Ledyard	15,051	2,661	18%	
Other Towns				
23. Brookfield	16,452	2,898	18%	
29. Fairfield	59,404	10,108	17%	
36. Farmington	25,340	4,151	16%	
41. West Hartford	63,268	10,184	16%	
64. Greenwich	61,171	8,846	14%	
93. Norwalk	85,603	10,856	13%	
101. Stamford	122,643	15,036	12%	

Type of Growth

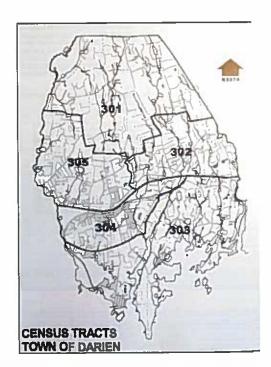
While many communities are experiencing an increase in the number of smaller households, Darien is doing exactly the opposite. Since 1990, average household size has been increasing. The number of larger households has been increasing since 1990 and the number of smaller households has been decreasing since 1990.

Household Size	1980	1990	2000	2010
1 2 people	2,688	3,150	3,073	2,801
3-4 people	2,539	2,502	2,500	2,633
5+ people	956	747	1,019	1,264
Total	6,183	6,399	6,592	6,698
Average HH Size	3.04	2.85	3.00	3.09

Location of Growth

As can be seen from the table below, all Census tracts in Darien grew in population between 2000 and 2010. The most robust growth was in tracts 304 and 305.

In a mature community such as Darien, an increase (or decrease) in population can be driven as much by changes within existing units as from new construction. For example, almost all tracts in Darien showed a population decrease between 1970 and 1990 as "baby boomers" left town.



Census Tract	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
301	2,992	3,094	2,983	3,451	3,502
302	3,229	2,992	2,994	3,378	3,442
303	4,278	3,962	3,859	4,057	4,156
304	3,785	3,315	3,177	3,392	3,958
305	6,042	5,190	5,022	5,329	5,674

Housing Units	
1960	5,087
1970	5,952
1980	6,340
1990	6,653
2000	6,792
2010	7,074

US Census. Data for 1980 to 2010 reflects number of units. Due to data availability, data for 1960 and 1970 reflects number of households.

Housing Tenure

	Darien	State
Owner	85%	68%
Renter	15%	32%
2010 Census		

Percent Multi-Family

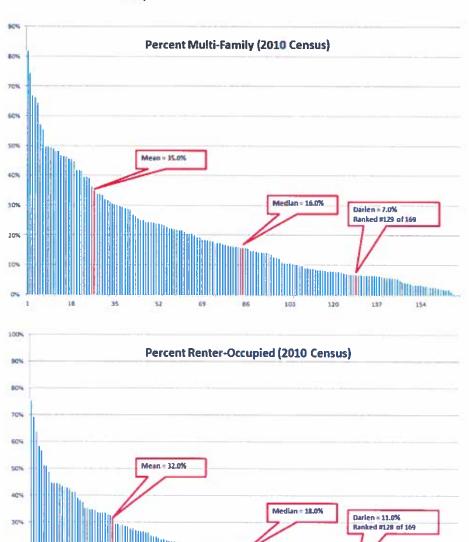
	access y
Darien	7%
Wilton	9%
New Canaan	16%
Greenwich	29%
State	35%
Norwalk	47%
Stamford	55%
2010 Census	

20%

Housing In Darien

Darien had about 7,074 housing units in 2010. Over the last two decades, Darien has been adding an average of about 20 housing units per year. This growth rate is a reflection of the fact that there is little undeveloped land in Darien so net housing growth occurs primarily through redevelopment of existing properties.

The housing stock in Darien consists primarily of single-family detached homes. As a result, the vast majority of homes in Darien (85%) are owner-occupied. According to the 2010 Census, only about 7 percent of the residential units in Darien were multi-family units.



As stated earlier, it is interesting to note that Darien has a different housing occupancy pattern as compared to most other communities in Connecticut. Darien has fewer small households (generally younger households, "empty nesters", and older residents) and more large households than other communities.

About 2.6 percent of the housing units in Darien are considered "affordable housing" (assisted housing, financed by CHFA mortgages, or sale price restricted by deed). The Town has been working on increasing the number of affordable housing units in ways and locations appropriate for the community. The Town recently applied for state recognition of the number of affordable units created and a corresponding moratorium from the State's Affordable Housing Appeals Procedure (codified as Section 8-30g of the Connecticut General Statutes).

Single-Family House











Median Sale Price

Greenwich	\$1,550,000
New Canaan	\$1,413,750
Darien	\$1,225,000
Wilton	\$786,000
Stamford	\$560,500
Norwalk	\$424,750
CERC	

Housing Occupancy

	Darien	State
1-2 people	42%	60%
3-4 people	39%	31%
5+ people	19%	9%
Mean	3.09	2.52
2010 Census		

'Affordable Housing'

Darien	2.62%
State	11.26%

CT Department of Housing (2014)

Jobs In Darien	
1960	3,735
1970	5,798
1980	8,120
1990	8,490
2000	7,820
2010	7 207

CT Labor Dept.

Economic Conditions in Darien

While Darien is not a major employment center, there are a number of jobs in the community. Darien benefits from its location within the New York City metropolitan area in terms of access to jobs and the availability of goods and services for residents. While the number of jobs in Darien is lower than found in nearby communities, it still has more jobs than housing units and this supports the local economy.

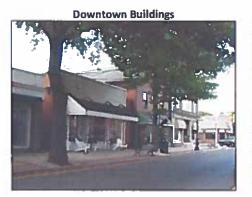
	Jobs (2013)
Stamford	75,096
Norwalk	44,463
Greenwich	34,719
Wilton	11,717
Darien	7,814
New Canaan	6,368

CERC, 2014

Median household income is one way to gauge the size or strength of the local economy. According to data from the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC), Darien has the highest median household income compared to nearby communities.

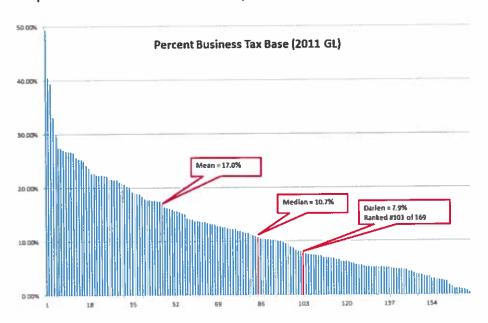
	Median Household Income
Darien	\$200,724
New Canaan	\$167,037
Wilton	\$161,906
Greenwich	\$129,588
Stamford	\$76,797
Norwalk	\$75,446

CERC, 2014





Since Darien is predominantly a residential community, the Grand List (the value of taxable property) is heavily influenced by the value of residential real estate. According to data from the Connecticut Economic Resource Center, the business component of the tax base is about 7.9 percent.







Land Use In Darien

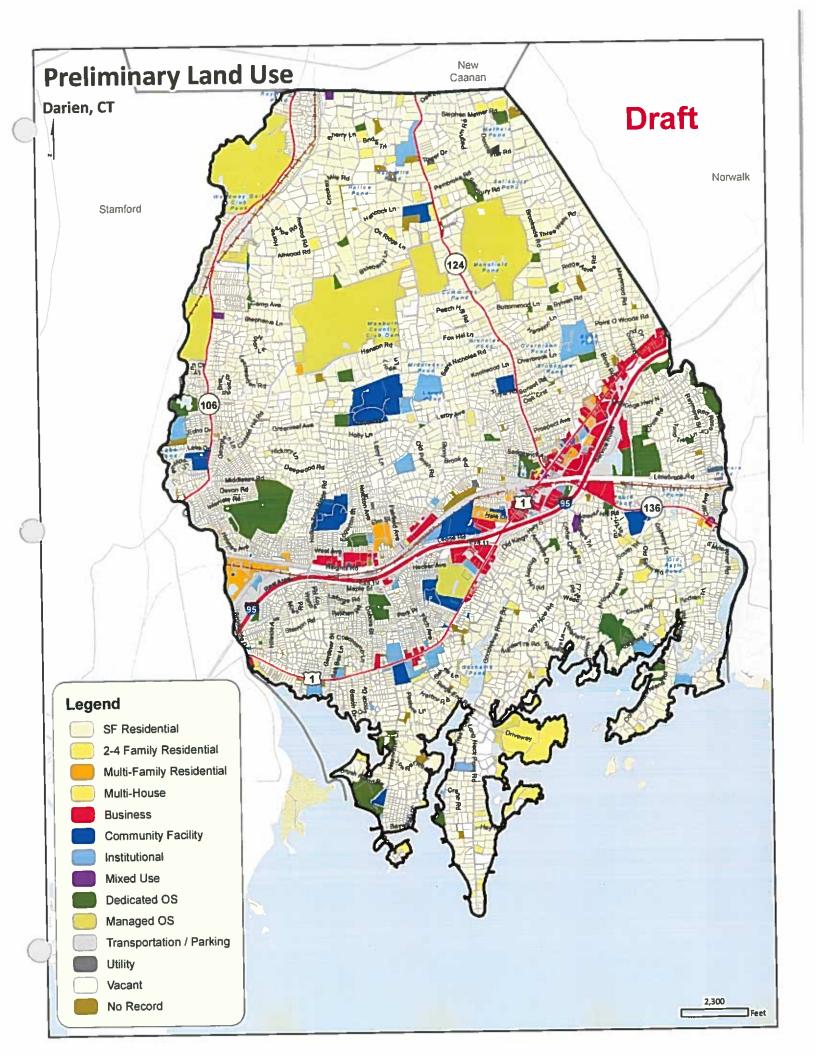
According to digital mapping of the community, Darien contains approximately 8,236 acres of land.

Based on the Assessor's database, about 97 percent of the community (5,366 acres) was occupied for residential, commercial, or institutional use or was dedicated to a specific purpose such as public land or protected open space. Conversely, about 3 percent of the land in town (216 acres) was vacant or uncommitted to a specific use.

There are some parcels without a specific record at this time so these totals may change once research is completed.

			Percent of Developed / Committed	Percent of Total Land Area
Residential Uses		5,366	67%	65%
Single-Family Residential	5,040	1000		
2-4 Family Residential	18			
Multi-House	228			
Multi-Family Residential	80			
Business Uses		188	2%	2%
Business	177			
Mixed Use	11			
Open Space		857	11%	10%
Dedicated OS	286			17510
Managed OS	571			
Community Facility / Institutional		390	5%	5%
Community Facility	178			
Institutional	213			
Other		1,219	15%	15%
Transportation / Parking	123	2116		
No Record (research underway)	120			
Utility	6			
Roads / Water / Miscellaneous	970			
Developed / Committed		8,020	100%	97%
Vacant		216		3%
Total		8,236		100%

Planimetrics based on Assessor database. Totals may not add due to rounding



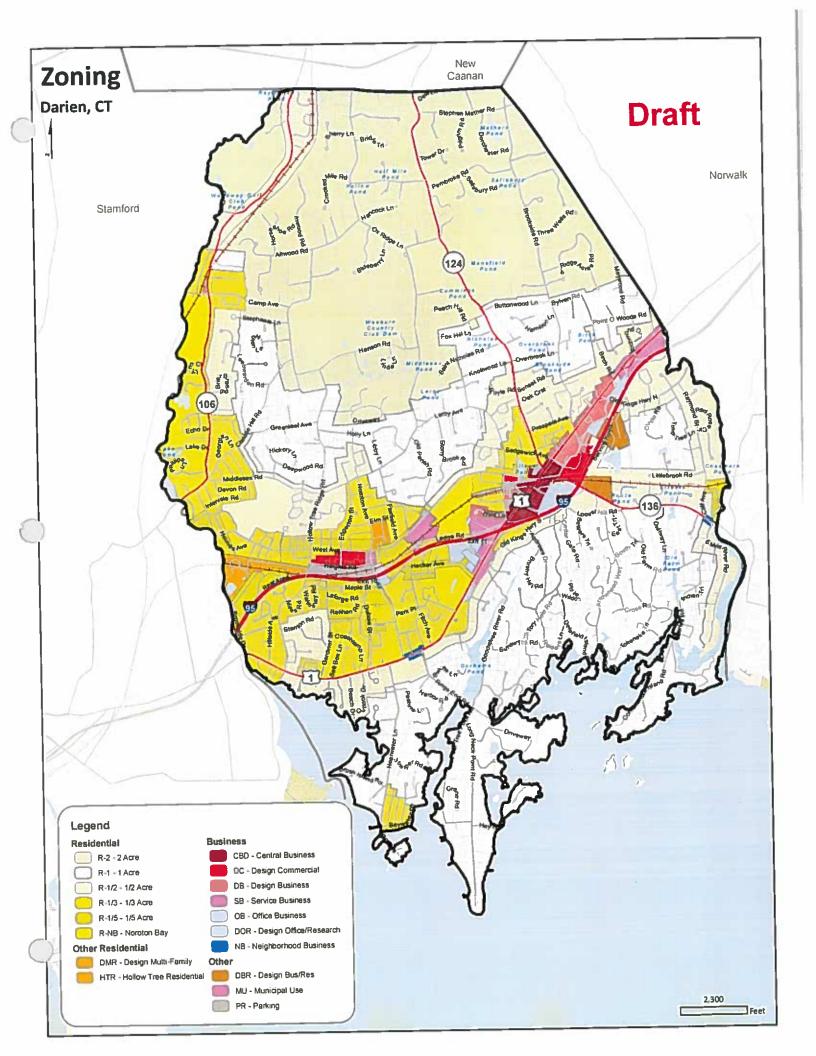
Zoning In Darien

In the 2001 POCD, about 64 percent of the community was zoned for residential use, about 17 percent was zoned for business use, and the remaining 19 percent was zoned for floodplain use or was contained within road rights-of way.

Similar data about how land is zoned in 2014 will be compiled as part of the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

			Percent of Total Land Area
Single Family Residential Zones		7,780	94%
R-2 (Two Acre)	2,383	.,	3470
R-1 (One Acre)	2,810		
R-1/2 (Half Acre)	1,232		
R-1/3 (Third Acre)	1.039		
R-1/5 (Fifth Acre)	286		
R-NB (25,000 SF)	29		
Other Residential Zones		54	1%
Design Multi-Family	49	1174111	
Hallow Tree (3.7 Ac)	5		
Business Zones		366	4%
Central Business District	49		***
Design Commercial	44		
Design Business (DB-1, DB-2)	68		
Designed Business/Residential	0		
Service Business (SB, SB-E)	94		
Office / Business	47		
Design Office / Research (DOR-1, DOR-5)	55		
Neighborhood Business	8		
Other		36	0%
Parking / Residential (PR)	0		570
Municipal Use (MU)	0		
Water / Miscellaneous (research underway)	36		
Total	7-	8,236	100%

Planimetrics based on Town's GIS database. Totals may not add due to rounding



Equalized Net Grand List

Equalized net grand lists are the estimated full market value of all taxable property in a municipality and are developed by the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management from sales/assessment ratio information.

Actual sales are compared to assessed values. For example, a home that sells for \$140,000 and has a sales assessed value of \$70,000 has a sales/assessment ratio of 50%.

Fiscal Overview

Key fiscal indicators which reflect the circumstances affecting Darien and surrounding communities are presented below.

On a per capita basis, Darien has a tax levy similar to that of surrounding communities.

	Per Capita Tax Levy (2012)
Wilton	\$5,815
New Canaan	\$5,775
Darien	\$5,131
Greenwich	\$4,991
Stamford	\$3,443
Norwalk	\$3,043

CERC, 2014

On a per capita basis, Darien has a stronger tax base than surrounding communities. The equalized mill rate (taxes as a percent of market value is the second lowest among nearby communities).

	Per Capita Equalized Net Grand List (2012)	Equalized Mill Rate	12
Greenwich	\$706,213	7.06	
Darien	\$556,151	9.24	
New Canaan	\$549,257	10.47	
Stamford	\$240,820	14.12	
Norwalk	\$197,493	15.45	
Wilton	\$348,686	16.47	

About 70 percent of Darien's budget goes to education. This is higher than nearby communities.

	Education Share of Budget (2012)
Darien	70.2%
Wilton	67.8%
New Canaan	61.6%
Norwalk	57.5%
Stamford	56.4%
Greenwich	44.3%

Debt per capita is also higher than several nearby communities.

	Per Capita Debt (2012)
New Canaan	\$6,378
Darien	\$4,769
Wilton	\$3,297
Stamford	\$3,284
Norwalk	\$2,433
Greenwich	\$1,517

CERC, 2014

Past studies of communities like Darien have found that residential development typically requires more in service costs than it provides in tax revenue.

Notes & Comments	
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